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11 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Domestic Collection Division

ATTENTION:

Mr.

SUBJECT:

Joseph R. MEROLA

REFERENCE:

HH 25826, 8 January 1974

1. On 10 January 1974 the WH/2/GS desk received the referenced memorandum from the Domestic Collection Division indicating the Miami field office had been in contact with one Joseph R. MEROLA. MEROLA had just returned from a business trip to El Salvador; and he reported that a friend of his had identified a Mr.⁰³ (Gremillion) in the Political Section of the American Embassy in San Salvador as a suspect CIA representative. Headquarters traces on Joseph R. MEROLA indicated that on several occasions in²⁷ the past MEROLA had claimed that he was a CIA agent. The (Chief of Station), the Mr.⁰³ (Gremillion) referred to above, was recently questioned regarding any Embassy contact with MEROLA while the latter was in San Salvador. The (COS)²⁷ stated that both within the Embassy community and at social functions MEROLA had frequently referred to his contact with the CIA, past and present. He also volunteered this information to a former (Station) contact.

1626 2. In light of the above, it would appear that MEROLA had taken advantage of his agency contacts in an inappropriate manner to the potential embarrassment of the (San Salvador Station). We would, accordingly, appreciate that this be given due consideration in your assessment of the advantage of your continued contact with him.

(David L. Smock)⁰³
C/WH/2

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